

ER-1-75517

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APR 24 1951

The Honorable Tom Murray
Chairman
Committee on Post Office & Civil Service
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of 16 April 1951 requesting our comments on H. R. 245, a bill to authorize payment after June 30, 1951 for unused annual leave accumulated by Federal employees during the calendar year 1950. The Central Intelligence Agency wholeheartedly supports the passage of H. R. 245.

As you know, the Central Intelligence Agency is charged by the National Security Act of 1947 with the coordination of the intelligence activities of the United States in the interest of national security. Our employees have been very hard hit by Section 1212 of the General Appropriation Act, 1951 (P. L. 739, 81st Congress). The invasion of Korea last June and the resultant emergency has increased the Central Intelligence Agency work load to such an extent that the granting prior to 30 June 1951 of unused annual leave accumulated during calendar year 1950 would seriously impair our efficiency.

A recent survey of the leave situation of CIA personnel has disclosed that a total of 167,988 hours or 20,886 days of leave earned in calendar year 1950 by our employees remained unused as of February 1951. If this leave must be taken prior to 30 June 1951 or be forfeited by the employees, it will place a severe burden on the Agency at a time when the maximum production possible is required of each employee.

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We have felt, since the General Appropriation Act of 1951 was enacted, that Section 1212 would undoubtedly result in inequitable treatment of our many loyal employees who, in the interest of the urgent need for production since June of 1950, have voluntarily ~~for~~gone their leave and would therefore forfeit it as of 30 June 1951. It is the Central Intelligence Agency policy to assure its employees maximum opportunity to avail themselves of earned annual leave. In spite of this policy, our employees have already forfeited an approximate total of 1,600 days on 31 December 1950.

In conclusion, I can only again repeat our sincere belief that in fairness to the employees of the Central Intelligence Agency, H. R. 245 should be enacted. We have been operating on a 44 hour week for several months, and the international situation is such that I can see little immediate hope for alleviating the leave situation insofar as our employees are concerned.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

WALTER B. SMITH
Director

WLPforzheimer:blc
Central Records W/basic
Signer - 2
Mr. Pforzheimer - 2
Comptroller - 1
Director of Personnel - 1
Orig. & cc to addressee

Hand carried 22-Apr-51